

VistA Audit Solution (VAS)

DG*5.3*964

Release Notes



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1. Introduction

The Veterans Health Information System Technology Architecture (VistA) Audit Solution (VAS) was designed as a real-time web-based interface. VAS provides a nationwide Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant Audit Tracking Solution with the ability to track and report on access logs for patient's Personal Identifiable Information (PII)/Protected Health Information (PHI) data across all VistA instances. VAS users are Privacy Officers, Information System Security Officers (ISSO), and their authorized representatives who need the ability to view the log of Create, Read, Update and/or Delete (CRUD) operations on patient information to respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), HIPAA, employee and Inspector General (IG) requests. This data originates from VistA and flows through in-memory database servers to be stored in the Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud (VAEC) Amazon Web Services (AWS). The VAS web-based User Interface (UI) will access and display the data stored in AWS.

Authorized VAS users may view the patient data that was accessed and modified, as well as the individual that performed the actions.

1.1. Purpose

These release notes cover the changes to implement the VistA Audit Solution (VAS) to the Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT)/Registration (DG) package made by the DG*5.3*964 patch.

1.2. Audience

This document targets users and administrators of the ADT/Registration (DG) package and applies to the changes made between this release and any previous releases of this software.

2. This Release

This software is being released as a patch (PackMan) message which includes the DG*5.3*964 patch.

This is the first release of VistA Audit Solution (VAS) 1.0. Informational patches under the namespace of WEBS will be issued for the UI portion of VAS to describe the changes in functionality/features being released.

The following sections provide a summary of the new features and functions added, enhancements and modifications to the existing software, and any known issues for DG*5.3*964.

2.1. New Features and Functions Added

The following are the features and functions included in Patch DG*5.3*964:

- The DG VAS QUEUE file (#46.3) was created to temporarily hold records to be sent to the external archive

- The DG VAS EXPORT file (#46.4) was created to track the AUDIT file (#1.1) records which were exported to the external archive
- The DG VAS CONFIG file (#46.5) was created to store the VAS REST API connection settings
- The DG VAS EXPORT option was added to the OPTION file (#19). This option is used to export entries from the DG VAS QUEUE file (#46.3) to the external archive. After successful transmission, the records in the DG VAS QUEUE file are deleted immediately. When the patch is installed, the DG VAS EXPORT option is automatically added as a Startup task in the OPTION SCHEDULING file (#19.2)
- The DG VAS MENU, containing the DG VAS DISPLAY and DG VAS MODIFY options, was added to the DG SECURITY OFFICER MENU
 - The DG VAS DISPLAY option allows the user to view the information in the DG VAS CONFIG file (#46.5)
 - The DG VAS MODIFY option allows the user to change the information in the DG VAS CONFIG file (#46.5)
- Entries were added to the PARAMETER DEFINITION file (#8989.51). These include:
 - DG VAS BATCH SIZE – This parameter represents the number of records in batches sent to the VAS REST API via the DG VAS WEB SERVICE; the parameter defaults to a value of 1000
 - DG VAS DAYS TO KEEP EXCEPTIONS – This parameter represents the number of days exceptions received from the REDACTED are stored in the local database before being deleted
 - DG VAS DEBUGGING FLAG – When set, this parameter instructs the VAS export process to send a MailMan message to the mail group (defined in the DG VAS MONITOR GROUP parameter) which details the status of the export process
 - DG VAS MAX QUEUE ENTRIES – This parameter contains a value representing the maximum number of entries permitted in the VAS outbound queue; when exceeded, the oldest entry in the queue is deleted from the queue and the new entry is appended
 - DG VAS MAX WRITE ATTEMPTS Parameter Definition for the maximum number of consecutive attempts to write, or POST, a batch of records to the DG VAS WEB SERVICE without receiving a response. The count of the write errors is incremented until the maximum is met, after which a mail message is generated and sent to the mail group in the REDACTED parameter. Audit records in a batch for which no response is received remain in the queue and will be retried until a response is received from the REDACTED.
 - DG VAS MONITOR GROUP – This parameter contains the mail group (REDACTED) to which the VAS export process updates and exception notifications are sent

- The DG AUDIT TASKMAN option was added. This option starts the background job for the DG VAS EXPORT process. The background job will start five minutes after the patch is installed, transmitting records to the external archive, and will run every five minutes thereafter. No action from the installer will be necessary
- The REDACTED mail group was added. Members of this mail group will receive notifications pertaining to the VAS export process, as well as exception notifications
- The REDACTED web server was created. This web server contains settings that enable communication with the REDACTED
- The REDACTED web service was created. This web service sends batches of audit records to the VAS external archive using the standard VistA HealthVet Web Services Client (HWSC) framework.

2.2. Enhancements and Modifications to Existing

The following are the enhancements and modifications by DG*5.3*964:

- The DGSEC and DGSEC4 routines were modified to create an "INQUIRY" record in the audit file in the external archive when a patient is selected within a VistA application or referenced via a Remote Procedure Call (RPC).
- The DG SECURITY OFFICER MENU was modified; the DG VAS MENU option was added

2.3. Known Issues

No known or open issues at this time.

3. Product Documentation

The following documents apply to this release:

- DG*5.3*964 Patch Description
- DG*5.3*964 DIBRG (Deployment, Installation, Back-out, and Rollback Guide)
- DG*5.3*964 Release Notes
- PIMS (Patient Information Management System) Version 5.3 Technical Manual
- PIMS ADT Module User Manual-Security Officer Menu
- WEBS*1*1 Patch Description
- VAS 1.0 User Guide
- VAS 1.0 Release Notes
- VAS 1.0 Technical Manual

Appendix A - Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ADT	Admission/Discharge/Transfer
API	Application Programming Interface
AWS	Amazon Web Services
CRUD	Create, Read/Inquire, Update, and Delete
DG	Registration package
DIBRG	Deployment, Installation, Back-Out, and Rollback Guide
FOIA	Freedom Of Information Act
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HWSC	HealtheVet Web Services Client
IG	Inspector General
ISSO	Information System Security Officer
OIT	Office of Information and Technology
PHI	Protected Health Information
PII	Personal Identifiable Information
PIMS	Patient Information Management System
PO	Privacy Officer
UI	User Interface
VA	Department of Veteran Affairs
VAEC	Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud
VAS	VistA Audit Solution
VistA	Veterans Health Information Systems Technology Architecture